

Remarks

Claims 86-109 are currently pending in the application and stand as rejected. Claims 87, 95 and 103 have been canceled. The Applicants are in receipt of the Examiner Initiated Interview Summary dated February 1, 2006, summarizing the telephonic interview between the Examiner and this attorney on January 25, 2006. The Applicants thank the Examiner for his time and participation in the interview.

The Examiner has rejected claims 86-109 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a reference referred to as "PRN", which is a summary of General Electric Capital's on line ordering system that allows users to order products based on parameters selected by an administrator, in view of a reference referred to as "Dell Computer", which is a collection of prior art cited in Paper #4 and U.S. Patent 6,167,383 ("Henson").

With respect to the PRN reference, which teaches General Electric Capital's on line ordering system, the Examiner clearly states in the Office Action that "PRN teaches a fleet manager establishing product selectors on the Internet and allowing drivers to make product/option selections online using a secure user ID and password. PRN further teaches drivers being permitted to choose from designated product options or being allowed to build entire vehicles." The Examiner interprets this as a fleet manager acting as an administrator in control of products bundled to make a completed product bundle. However, what the Examiner cites from PRN is not what the Applicants are claiming. In amended Claims 86, 94 and 102, the Applicants clearly state that the requestor, which would be the equivalent of the drivers in the PRN reference, are allowed to configure the products selected by the fleet manager. The reference clearly states "all vehicle configuration completed by the driver is based on parameters

the fleet manager selects". The Applicants have amended Claims 86, 94 and 102 to make it clear that the requestor is allowed to select only from the predefined virtual bundles. Claims 86, 94 and 102 do not claim that the requestor is able to configure his own product for purchase, as is disclosed by the PRN reference. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit these claims, as amended, are thereby distinguished from the PRN reference. This point of difference was discussed between the Applicants' attorney and the Examiner during the interview on January 25, 2006.

With respect to the references to Dell Computer, the Applicants respectfully submit that Dell does not disclose an administrator which configures products belonging to the group and in addition, buyers able to select predefined bundles for purchase. In the document from the M2 Presswire dated December 18, 1998, and referred to as document number 03813212 (Item 9 from File 20), it clearly states that there are three types of users permitted to access the Dell Premier Pages, referred to as Users, Buyers and Managers:

Access to Premier Pages is controlled and managed by the customer. Once the site has been developed customers are given IDs and passwords that will determine access privileges for each level and category of user. Premier Pages support log-in security at three user levels: *"Users" can see product details, but can't purchase; "Buyers" have access to purchase details and the 'BUY' button while "Managers" can access all information, including detailed management reports.* (emphasis added)

Nowhere in the article is defined an administrative user having access to create virtual bundles for purchase by other members of the administrator's group. Only users of type User (can see product details, but not purchase), Buyer (have access to the purchase details and the "BUY" button), or Manager (can access all information, including detailed management reports)

are defined as user types from the customer group. Thus, the administrative user, able to pre-configure bundles for purchase, is not taught or disclosed. As a result, the combination of Dell Computer and PRN do not suggest the invention as claimed in amended Claims 86, 94 and 102. This point of difference was also discussed in the interview on January 25th.

The other reference, Henson, is cited for a computer readable medium and server means. In addition, Henson clearly states that the computers available for purchase on the system described by Henson are custom or configurable computer systems and that the system has a database provided for supplying *configuration options* to a piece of software (described as the configurator) in accordance with an identification of the user belonging to a prescribed customer set. Therefore, the end user purchasing a computer is still able to configure the computer system from among selected options. This is very similar to the PRN reference.

As a result, the Applicants respectfully submit the combination does not teach or suggest a system whereby special users from the customer's group are able to pre-configure bundles of products for purchase, and further wherein other users from the customer's group are able to log in to purchase those pre-defined bundles (without further configuration or option selecting).

Conclusion

As stated above, the combination of PRN, Dell and Henson does not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in the amended, independent claims of the application, and therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 86, 94 and 102 are differentiated from the combination of PRN, Dell and Henson.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all currently pending claims in light of the discussion above and requests allowance of all claims at the earliest possible time.

The Applicants have enclosed a check to cover the fee for the Request for Continued Examination. It is believed that this Response and Amendment requires no other fees. However, if an additional fee is required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-4800 the necessary amount.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding these amendments or arguments, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney, listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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